

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-43 (Canceled).

44. (Currently Amended) A method to produce an embossed web material, comprising at least two plies coupled to each other by gluing, including the following steps: ~~producing on a~~ embossing a first ply to produce thereon a first series of protuberances defining embossed decorative motifs forming an embossed background pattern; applying ink to at least some of the protuberances of said first series to form a colored pattern; subsequently further embossing said first ply to produce thereon a second series of protuberances of a greater height and lesser density with respect to the protuberances of the first series and defining a decorative motif; applying a glue to at least some of the protuberances of said second series of protuberances defining the decorative motifs; making a second ply adhere to the first ply by means of said glue; ~~wherein a colored pattern is applied to said first ply prior to producing said embossed decorative motifs by means of embossing.~~

45. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said first ply is embossed between a pressure roller and an embossing roller provided with protuberances

defining said decorative ~~motifs~~ motif, and wherein said glue is applied to said first ply while the first ply is still in contact with said embossing roller.

46. (Canceled).

47. (Canceled).

48. (Canceled).

49. (Canceled).

50. (Canceled).

51. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim ~~46~~ 44, wherein the protuberances of the first series have an average density ranging from 20 to 100 protuberances/cm².

52. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim ~~46~~ 44, wherein the protuberances of the first series occupy a percentage lower than 25% of ~~the~~ total surface of the first ply.

53. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said glue is colored.

54. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 53, wherein said glue and said ink have different shades of a same color.

55. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said second ply is embossed with background embossing prior to coupling with the first ply.

56. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 55, wherein said second ply is embossed with a third series of protuberances forming a background pattern with an average density ranging from 20 to 100 protuberances/cm².

57. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 55, wherein the protuberances of said third series occupy a percentage below 25% of the total surface of the second ply.

58. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the decorative ~~motifs~~ motif formed by the protuberances of the second series are distributed according to a density not exceeding 3 motifs/cm².

59. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said colored pattern is produced by printing the first ~~smooth~~ ply.

60. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 59, wherein said first ply is micro-embossed after said colored pattern is applied.

61. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said ~~printed pattern is a~~ embossed background pattern is distributed essentially uniformly over the entire surface of the ply.

62. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said ~~first ply is provided with a~~ colored

6672/USSN 10/566,629
Group Art Unit 1791

~~background~~ pattern is constituted by stippling or by a series of lines.

63. (Canceled).

64. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said colored pattern is phased with said decorative ~~patterns~~ motif to form a composite printed and embossed pattern.

Claims 65-90 (Canceled).